ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A searcher uses an input signal, and for example, a matched filter to generate a first set of candidate paths. A selector uses the input signal and the first set of candidate paths to generate a second set of paths. The second set of paths is used to configure the fingers of a RAKE receiver. According to one aspect of the invention, the first set of candidate paths contains M paths, and the second stage uses M correlators to generate a set of M correlation values. The second stage uses the M correlation values to select N paths that are used to configure the N fingers of the RAKE receiver. According to another aspect of the invention, the first set of candidate paths contains M paths, and the second stage uses a multiple of M correlators to track the M paths and generate a set of M estimates. The second stage uses the M estimates to select N paths that are used to configure the N fingers of the RAKE receiver. According to another aspect of the invention, the selector can generate new sets of N paths while the searcher is either active or inactive. The receiver can use a quality signal or a counter to notify the searcher and/or the selector to generate new sets of paths. The selector decreases the need to continuously run the matched filter. The receiver can re-configure the fingers without having to search for new paths. The receiver can also find paths that are uncorrelated and less susceptible to fading.